

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 13 and 30 are amended and claims 33-35 are canceled, leaving claims 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21-23, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31 and 32 pending with claim 13 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 30 has been objected to as being of improper form, since it is dependent from cancelled claim 29.

Claim 30 has been amended to depend from claim 28.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 13-16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 30-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Park (U.S. 6,422, 833), Suzuki et al. (U.S. 3,664, 771), and Gallmeyer (U.S. 5,660, 833). In particular, regarding the curved protrusion recited in independent claim 13, the Examiner asserts that Suzuki discloses a stopper with a protrusion for preventing the shaft from rotating along the inner surface of a stopper in response to vibration, and that Gallmeyer teaches a curved protrusion (26) formed on an inner surface of a stopper for damping undesirable vibrations caused by a rotary shaft.

Applicants submit that independent claim 13 is allowable over this combination of references. Specifically, claim 13 recites, among other things, a hermetically sealed electrically driven compressor comprising a cup-shaped stopper fixed to an inner upper part of an enclosed container, the cup-shaped stopper having a single curved protrusion extending inwardly from a continuous inner peripheral surface of said cup-shaped stopper, wherein the single curved protrusion has a linear shape, extends along an axial direction of said crankshaft, is formed along said inner peripheral surface of said cup-shaped stopper, and is rigid such that it does not deform upon contact with said crankshaft.

The Examiner recognizes that Park and Suzuki fail to disclose or render obvious a protrusion formed on the inner surface of the stopper. *See* Office Action, Pg. 5. For this element,

the Examiner cites Gallmeyer. However, the curved protrusion in Gallmeyer is not rigid and thus deforms, unlike the curved protrusion in claim 1. Specifically, Gallmeyer discloses a dynamic damper for absorbing vibrations in a rotary driveshaft including a mass member and a plurality of connecting members, the mass member vibrates by resonance and the connecting members are subjected to compressive deformation between the mass member and the rotary shaft. (*See* Gallmeyer Abstract). Each elongated connecting member 20 is made from an elastomeric material which is capable of absorbing compression forces of varying amounts (*See* Gallmeyer, col. 4, lines 4-7).

As stated above, the curved protrusion recited in the present claims is rigid and is thus not deformed by the crankshaft when the protrusion collides against the crankshaft. Furthermore, there is no reasoning in the cited prior art to modify the Gallmeyer protrusion to render this element obvious.

Additionally, Gallmeyer discloses a plurality of connecting members, and the present claim recites a single curved protrusion. As stated in Gallmeyer, this plurality of contact members is “adapted to directly contact the rotary driveshaft 18. In this manner, the mass member 12 is spaced apart from the rotary driveshaft 18 when installed and is also supported by the plurality of connecting members 20...”. *See* Col. 3, lines 63-66. Accordingly, if Gallmeyer were modified to have only one connecting member, Gallmeyer would be rendered inoperative for its intended purpose. That is, the drive shaft 18 would neither be supported by the connecting members nor spaced from the mass member.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 13 and its dependent claims are allowable over the prior art.

Furthermore claim 13 recites that the upper end portion of said crankshaft is arranged to contact the curved protrusion and the inner peripheral surface upon oscillation of the compressor element. That is, the embodiments covered by claim 13 provide that when the upper end portion of the crankshaft collides against the protrusion, it further collides against the inner circumference of the stopper. As a result of these collisions, continuous rotary motion is prevented. Thus, generation of noise due to collision can be prevented, and the refrigerator or other device using the compressor covered by this claim does not produce unpleasant vibrations

to its user. This element is neither disclosed nor rendered obvious by the references alone or in combination.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 13 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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